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Public Access Computing in Latin America: taking stock of an international study

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Tutorial and Workshop Proposal for AMCIS 2010

Submission Date:	
Workshop/tutorial Title:	Public Access Computing in Latin America: taking stock of an international study
Duration:	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Day <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Half Day
Classification:	<input type="checkbox"/> Tutorial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workshop

Abstract

Public access computers (such as those offered in libraries, telecentres and cybercafés) are helping bring the benefits of information and communication technologies to a broader sector of the population. What happens in these public access places, and how do people use them to improve their lives? The workshop will present findings and lessons presented by Latin American participants in an international study of public access computing in 25 countries.

Workshop Leader Information (Please attach a copy of your resume in your email submission)

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Additional Workshop Presenters (copy for each one)

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Speakers' background, description of workshop, and envisioned activities during the workshop (please provide information for each speaker)

The University of Washington led an international study of public access computing in 25 countries, including 9 Latin American countries. Through a combination of surveys, interviews and document reviews conducted by local researchers in each country, the study describes the landscape of public access computing across multiple countries and across different types of venues: libraries, telecentres and cybercafés. Unprecedented in its magnitude and global scale, the study had a particular emphasis in Latin America, which resulted in the publication of a book, “Puntos de Acceso Publico”, to be launched in Peru in August 2011. This book offers an in-depth look at public access computing experiences in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras and Dominican Republic, as well as a discussion of some of the common trends and salient similarities and differences in the region.

During this workshop the authors will present the key findings from each country, and engage in a conversation about the opportunities and challenges of public access computing in each country and in the region, as well as the difficulties of conducting research across multiple countries using a shared methodology and approach.

Speakers include Gomez and Camacho (above) as well as Fernando Bossio (Peru), Marta Voelckr (Brazil), Adrian Rozengardt (Argentina). Gomez will facilitate the discussion in a participatory dialogue that goes beyond a series of speakers, to engage audience participation and dynamic discussion.

Special Requirements

none

Audience

Researchers and practitioners in the field of information and communication technologies for development and community informatics. A global audience, with a particular emphasis on Latin America.

